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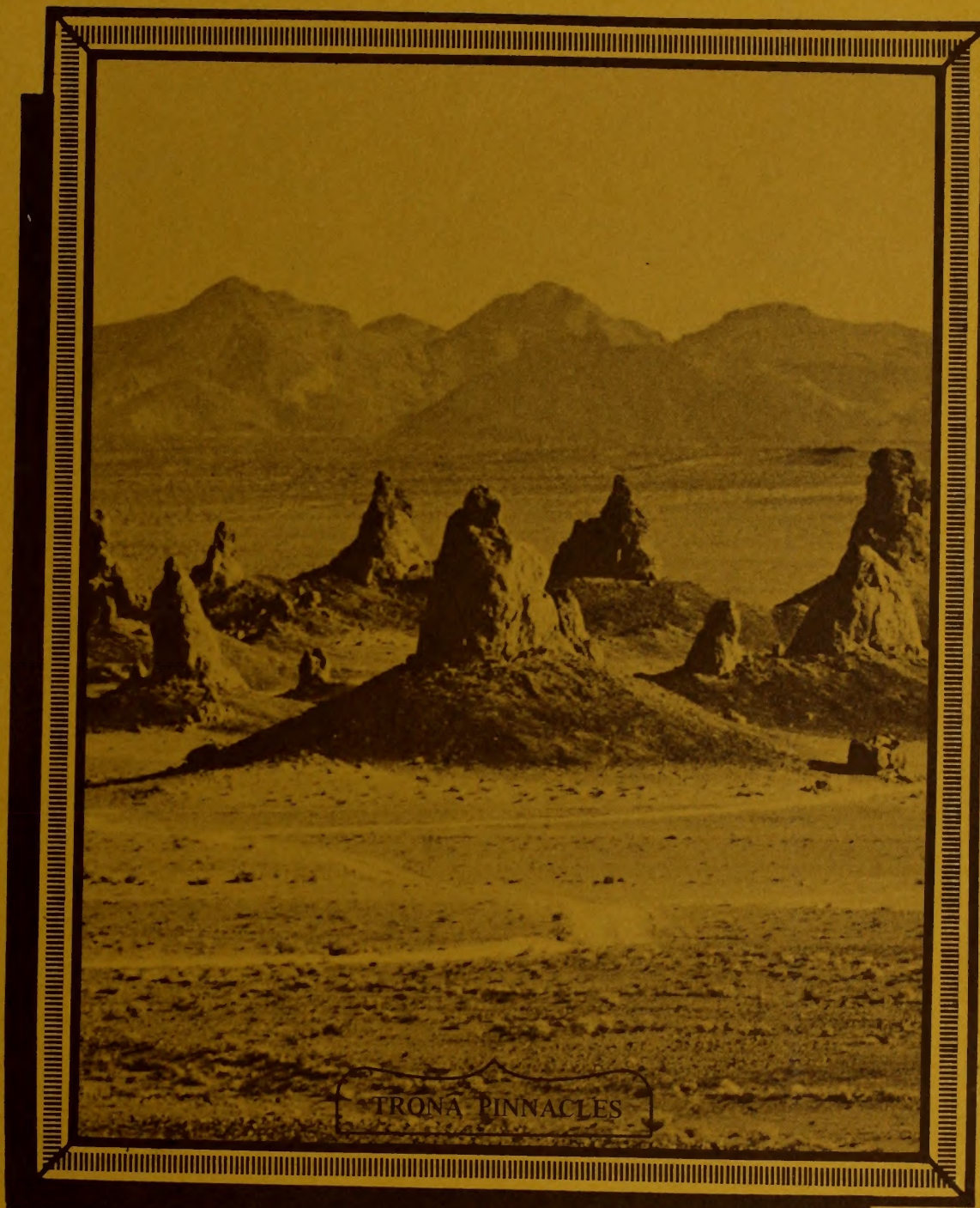
# RED MOUNTAIN

MANAGEMENT

FRAME

WORK

PLAN



TRONA PINNACLES

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1976



*U.S. Department of the Interior*

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Riverside District

CALIFORNIA DESERT PLAN PROGRAM



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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
TITLE PAGE

State California	District Riverside
Resource Area Barstow	
Planning Unit Red Mountain	
Code 0601	Type

ORIGINALLY APPROVED

*Richard D. Vail*  
(District Manager)

*May 14, 1976*  
(Date)

REVIEWED AND UPDATED

DISTRICT MANAGER	DATE

RED MOUNTAIN  
MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN  
MAY 14, 1976

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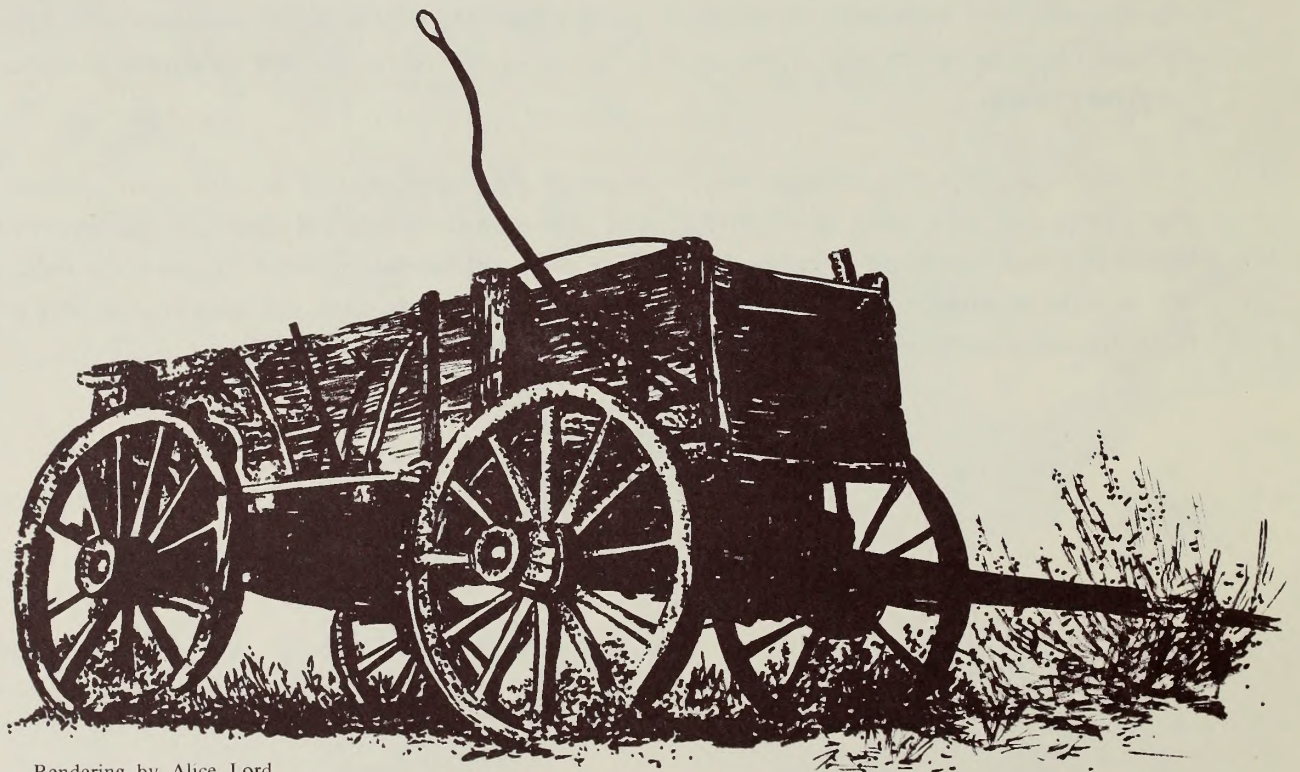
## THE RED MOUNTAIN PLANNING UNIT

Eleven thousand years ago, aboriginal inhabitants of the California Desert survived along the desert washes, canyons, and rocky lava flows that comprise the Red Mountain Planning Unit. Today, man continues to depend upon this rich desert resource for the necessities of a 20th Century existence. Present day desert dwellers, stockmen, miners, and urbanites who look to the desert for its range lands, minerals, vastness, solitude, and recreational opportunities are all users of the Red Mountain Planning Unit.

The Red Mountain Planning Unit is comprised of almost 700,000 acres of land in the northwestern corner of San Bernardino County. It is generally west of the China Lake Naval Weapons Center's Mojave Range B and north of State Highway 58.

Approximately 70 percent of the lands in the Red Mountain Planning Unit are federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the Department of the Interior, which has the responsibility of managing on a multiple-use basis the lands under its jurisdiction. Such management is no easy task, particularly when a planning unit is highly endowed with natural and cultural resource values and at the same time, serves the economic and consumptive needs of the American people.

It is our hope that this Management Framework Plan will provide for the best combination of short term use, long term productivity, and preservation of natural values of the desert resource within the Red Mountain Planning Unit. This plan will be continuously reviewed by management and as new resource information is found and demands made upon the area change, the plan will be periodically amended to reflect these new conditions.



Rendering by Alice Lord  
San Bernardino, California



## INTRODUCTION

These decisions set the policy and management direction for the national resource lands in the Red Mountain Planning Unit.

Some of these decisions are effective immediately and will be reflected in a variety of ways. For example, the "designation" of the various Natural Areas shown on the map has the immediate effect of specifying the types of public use, resource conditions, outdoor recreation occupancy and use, and resource development which will be authorized or permitted by the Bureau of Land Management. Bureau actions on requests for use of the land within these areas will immediately reflect the purposes and objectives of these designations as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Certain other decisions will require additional study and planning. For example, the decisions related to range management will require preparation of detailed Allotment Management Plans before implementation can take place.

Finally, there are decisions in this report which will require additional manpower to accomplish. For example, special investigations are needed throughout the planning unit to locate significant plant and wildlife species. Implementation of these decisions will depend upon funding provided through the budget process.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is an integral part of the BLM planning program. This process requires that all interested citizens be given an opportunity to express their views and desires, raise specific issues, and explore the problems and opportunities of the various planning areas throughout the California Desert. The planning process also requires that citizens be involved at important decision points throughout the process of plan development.

Individuals and organizations were given the opportunity to participate at various stages in the process of planning the Red Mountain area. In the early stage, special workshops were held in Trona, Ridgecrest, and Los Angeles for the purpose of identifying issues and surfacing specific concerns held by different segments of the public. Those present at these initial meetings represented a broad spectrum of interest in the Red Mountain area.

Contacts were made by BLM staff during the inventory stage of the program to obtain specialized information from knowledgeable individuals, special interest organizations and public agencies.

Five thousand copies of the draft Management Framework Plan were mailed or given to individuals and to organizations for distribution to their membership. The draft plan for the El Paso and Red Mountain area generated substantial public discussion and comment. During the review period (October 1, 1975 to January 15, 1976), the Riverside office received responses from almost 1600 individuals and 50 organizations, government agencies and universities. Response took many forms including letters, petitions, reports prepared by organizations, drawings submitted by elementary schools, mailgrams, and telegrams. The comments received from the public were tabulated by "issue categories" and made available to the public in a report titled "Summary of Public Review, Draft Management Framework Plan for National Resource Lands in El Paso/Red Mountain Planning Units".

The material received from the public was carefully analyzed. Issues, concerns and recommendations were extracted and categorized for direct consideration of BLM staff in preparing their final recommendations. As a result of this input, several amendments to the draft plan were made.

This Management Framework Plan is the Bureau's official guide to the management decisions on national resource lands within the Red Mountain area. The Plan elements described herein reflect public input and a commitment by the Bureau to seriously consider the public interest as expressed through citizen participation. As this plan is reviewed and periodically amended to reflect new conditions, the public will again have the opportunity to participate in the plan amendment process.



## DEFINITIONS

**GEOHERMAL ENERGY:** The natural underground heat of the earth which can be delivered to the surface where it can be either changed to electrical energy or used as it is for heating (or cooling) buildings.

**KGRA (Known Geothermal Resource Area):** Areas within which, based on geological and/or geophysical evidence, there is potential for a geothermal source. The KGRA is defined by the U.S. Geologic Survey Conservation Division.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK:** A Federal designation for historical and archaeological sites and structures judged to have exceptional value to the Nation as a whole rather than to a particular state or locality. Upon the owner's agreement to adhere to accepted preservation precepts, Landmark designation is recognized by the award of a bronze plaque and a certificate. The program is administered by the National Park Service under the authority of the National Historic Site Act.

**NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK:** A designation for sites listed on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The registry contains geological or ecological values of such distinctive quality as to be of national significance. The objectives of the Natural Landmarks Program are (1) to encourage the preservation of sites illustrating the geological and ecological character of the United States, (2) to enhance the educational and scientific value of sites thus preserved, (3) to strengthen cultural appreciation of natural history, and (4) to foster a greater concern in the conservation of the Nation's natural heritage.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:** A Federal register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects determined to be of local, state or national significance in American History, architecture, archaeology, and culture, maintained by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of section 2(b) of the National Historic Sites Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666, 16 U.S.C. 461) and section 101(a)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915, 16 U.S.C. 470).

**OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA:** These are established to preserve scenic values and areas of natural wonder. The preservation of these resources in their natural condition is the primary management objective. Access roads, parking areas and public use facilities are normally located on the periphery of the area. The public is encouraged to walk into the area for recreational purposes wherever feasible (see CFR 6225).

**PRIMITIVE AREA :** Lands designated as primitive areas shall be administered for public recreational use in a manner to protect primitive values, and to: (a) allow the free operation of natural ecological succession to the extent feasible for scientific and other study, (b) preserve solitude, physical and mental challenge, inspiration and primitive recreation values, (c) preserve public values that would be lost if the lands were developed for commercial purposes or passed from Federal ownership, and (d) allow the natural restoration of the primitive character of the lands (see CFR 6221).

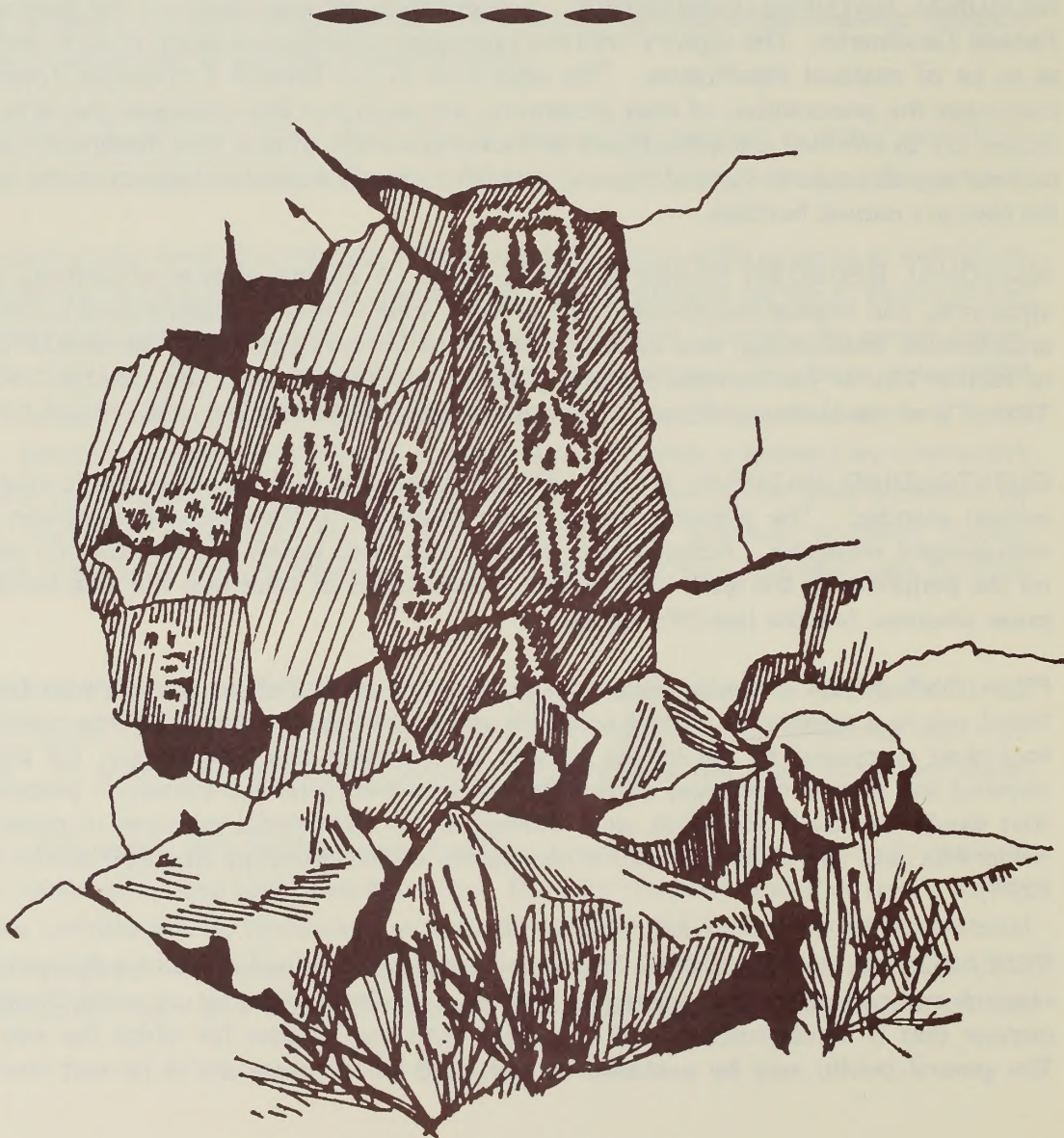
**RESEARCH NATURAL AREA:** These are established and maintained for the primary purpose of research and education. Scientists and educators are encouraged to use research natural areas in a manner that is nondestructive and consistent with the purpose for which the area is established. The general public may be excluded or restricted where necessary to protect studies or preserve



research natural areas. Lands having the following characteristics may qualify: (1) Typical or unusual faunistic or floristic types, associations, or other biotic phenomena, or (2) Characteristic or outstanding geologic, pedologic, or aquatic features or processes.

**SCENIC CORRIDOR - BUFFER ZONES:** Scenic corridors may be established along roads and highways, rivers and streams, trails and other lands for the preservation, protection and enhancement of scenic and natural values. Size and use of scenic corridors shall be consistent with the purposes for which they are established. Natural values include varied and interesting land forms, flora and fauna within attractive native settings suitable for recreation in a natural environment and usually in combination with other uses (see CFR 6222).

**Note:** This designation does not apply any particular limitations on vehicle use or other uses which are specifically regulated by other designations.





## LANDS

### INTRODUCTION

The Red Mountain Planning Unit comprises 698, 815 acres, slightly over 70 percent of which is national resource lands. Land values range from \$40.00 per acre for unimproved, isolated desert land to \$2,150.00 per acre in the Trona area. The Trona area has increased values due to industrial and commercial opportunities. The Lockhart area is active agriculturally and values there average \$125.00 per acre.

The ownership pattern within the unit is variable and significantly affects management. Military lands comprise approximately 10,000 acres, most of which is in the Cuddeback bombing range. The southern portion of the planning unit has a checkerboard land pattern which resulted from the Southern Pacific Railroad land grants around the turn of the century.

The primary community centers within the planning unit are the Trona area, Red Mountain, Lockhart and Kramer Junction. The Trona area is the largest and most significant in terms of any future demands on national resource lands for expansion purposes. The remaining communities exist on a much smaller scale except for Kramer Junction which has a moderate number of goods and services available.

### DECISIONS

- ★ 1. The areas shown on the plan as candidate communication sites should be analyzed for their suitability for this purpose.

*The demand for future desert communication sites appears to be increasing yearly. Therefore, these candidate sites should be evaluated for their suitability in meeting this demand.*

- ★ 2. The existing major north-south utility corridor (paralleling Highway 395) should be utilized for the future routing of interstate and inter-regional power transmission lines, pipe lines, and telephone lines. The proposed transarctic pipe line should be re-routed to the west side of Highway 395 from Red Mountain to Kramer Junction.

*The use of the existing corridor will insure the minimum loss of visual, cultural and natural resources as well as provide sufficient space for future utilities.*

- 3. Existing surface waters and hot springs should be inventoried and noted on official land records as public water reserves.

*Desert recreation is beginning to have an adverse impact upon potable surface waters. Human activities such as camping, washing of eating accessories and elimination of human waste in and around surface water resources, if continued, will pollute these surface waters and render them unusable for human use as well as wildlife use.*

- 4. BLM should consider the need for land for urban expansion in the Trona area if existing potential opportunities prove not feasible. This effort should be coordinated with the San Bernardino County Planning Department and the Searles Valley Community Council.



*Approximately 150 new employees will be hired upon completion of Kerr-McGee's new plant at Trona. These new employees, their families, and potential commercial business expansion could bring approximately 400 to 500 persons to the Trona area. Approximately 195 vacant suitable lots exist for housing construction in the Argus and Point of Rocks townsites. In addition, vacant private land is also available south of the Argus townsite. The City of Ridgecrest, approximately 30 minutes drive from Trona, has sufficient land available for housing construction. A comprehensive land use plan and program for the Trona area has not, as yet, been developed by the County. Possibly through the land use planning process, a more efficient use of existing urban space could be realized.*

- ★ 5. A buffer zone to insulate the town of Red Mountain from off-road vehicle noise, as well as prevent livestock grazing too close to dwellings, should be established by local ordinance. This zone should be located on the east side of the town of Red Mountain. In addition, the size of this zone and its precise location should be established through cooperative studies with San Bernardino County representatives as appointed by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

*Residents of Red Mountain have requested the BLM to help abate nuisances generated by motorcycles and range activities. Establishing this zone through County ordinance and the pending townsite application would provide more effective legal controls and enforcement than could be accomplished through existing federal enforcement authority, but should only be pursued if the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors indicates its support of such proposal and appoints appropriate County Representatives to work with BLM.*

- ★ 6. Approximately 12,000 acres of private land should be acquired to assist management of the national resource land.

*Acquisition of private land in-holdings is proposed to assist BLM in more effective management of recreation, wildlife, and cultural values.*

- ★ 7. **Trona Airport Protection:** The approach zone of the Trona Airport should be identified as Airport Approach Zone as shown on the final map and administrative procedures established to control the height of any proposed structures. Any applications for construction or concentration of public use in this area should be referred to FAA and local airport authorities for review and recommendation.

*Trona Airport provides essential transportation service to these remote desert communities. There has been an investment of public funds on improvements which are being increased to meet transportation needs of an expanding community.*

8. The BLM should request San Bernardino County to amend the County General Plan to remove the proposed county roads in the southern half of the Red Mountain Planning Unit.

*The specific role of these roads, which do not now exist and were proposed years ago, is now in question due to a significant reduction in growth projections for the area.*

- ★ 9. In anticipation of expiration of Cuddeback Air to Ground Gunnery Range withdrawal in 1978, a favorable restoration report, and necessary decontamination, this area should be considered to be classified for vehicle use restricted to existing roads and trails and extension of competitive off-road vehicle event areas.



*This withdrawal expires in 1978 and if no longer needed for Department of Defense purposes, would provide additional area for expanding recreation opportunities.*

10. **Trona-Argus Waste Disposal Site.** The BLM should work closely with San Bernardino County to encourage management of this 60-acre site in accordance with sanitary landfill standards. Coordination between the County and BLM should begin as soon as possible to insure that new criteria for management of this site are incorporated into any new Recreation and Public Purpose agreement.

*Currently, management of this site does not conform in total with Environmental Protection Agency and State of California standards for landfill sites. Existing problems include incidental burning, lack of controlled access and frequent widespread scattering of windblown debris. Also waste brought to the site is not being covered on a daily basis. In addition, executive order 11752 requires that all landfills on public lands must be operated in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency requirements for sanitary landfills.*

11. **Potash Reserve No. 2.** This withdrawal should be retained until U.S. Geologic Survey concludes its study of the applicability of this withdrawal to mineral management on Searles Lake. If the study reveals that this withdrawal is no longer necessary to mineral management, then the withdrawal should be revoked by BLM. Coordination with U.S. Geologic Survey Menlo Park, Conservation Division, should be initiated in order to monitor the progress of this study.

*It was originally thought that this 1913 withdrawal was instituted to protect the lake bed from sale and that the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act would serve to protect the lake bed from indiscriminate disposal. However, discussions with U.S. Geologic Survey Menlo Park, Conservation Division, have revealed that the exact nature and function of this withdrawal are unknown, and are currently being researched. Therefore, premature revocation of this withdrawal may adversely affect mineral management for Searles Lake.*

12. **Utility Location Trespass.** Legal tenure should be granted to those companies who have located utilities (cables, pipe lines, power lines) within the 200 foot Trona Railway right-of-way.

*The utilities that have located within this right-of-way originally thought Trona Railway had an exclusive easement and no BLM easement was necessary.*





### INTRODUCTION

Mineral production has been one of the major activities in the Red Mountain Planning Unit since the 1860's. The Red Mountain area yielded many millions in gold in the 1890's. Later, silver and tungsten were mined there. Some mining still continues today on a small scale. Searles Lake, first exploited for its mineral salts by John Searles a century ago, is today the nation's most important producer of saline minerals. It holds future potential for tungsten and lithium extractions. Today, an increasing national need for new mineral and energy sources prompts renewed mining interest in the area. Much of the planning unit is now being explored for the possibility of geothermal energy sources.

The area's geology is also of interest to scientists and students of geology, as well as to the general public. The Garlock Fault displays outstanding examples of land forms associated with active strike-slip faults. And the Trona Pinnacles are possibly the world's best expression of tufa spires formed under an Ice Age lake.

### DECISIONS

13. Encourage through cooperation with state and local governments and mining operators: (a) mitigation of pollution and other forms of environmental disturbances and (b) rehabilitation of open pits, as reasonably as possible, to their premineral status (both topographically and vegetatively).

*Mineral resources needed to satisfy local and national demand should be developed with the least possible environmental impact.*

14. Active consideration should be given to solar and wind energy being developed in this planning unit. Way stations or any other sizable buildings proposed and planned should be built so that full use will be made of the abundant solar and wind energy available in this area.

*In view of the national energy effort and the abundance of solar energy in this planning unit, it will be a step forward towards energy self-sufficiency as well as a saving in expenses for running such a building.*

15. One or more areas along the Garlock Fault should be designated as Natural Areas and nominated to the National Register of Natural Landmarks.

*The Garlock Fault displays outstanding examples of landforms associated with active strike-slip faults. Most fault topography is very fragile and, once destroyed, the information contained is lost to us and future investigators.*

- ★ 16. Designate areas shown for potential sand and gravel material sales. When requests for sand and gravel material sales are made to BLM, applicants should be directed to subject areas and permitted to conduct further surveys and tests to determine location of deposits which will meet required aggregate standards.



*There is a continuous demand for high-grade sand and gravel for building and road construction. In the southernmost part of the planning unit, available soil data are not adequate for such classification.*

- 17. The Searles Lake area should continue to be managed primarily for mineral resources.**

*This is a well-established, producing mineral area with known reserves of mineral resources very important to our national economy.*

- 18. The Red Mountain-Atolia and Summit Range mineral areas should be managed primarily for mineral exploration and development.**

*This area is known to be mineral in character.*

- 19. Proceed with processing of geothermal leasing applications as determined by the Final Environmental Analysis Record (EAR) in the Randsburg, Spangler Hills, and South Searles Lake Areas.**

*Data available from the Red Mountain Unit Resource Analysis and Management Framework Plan has been supplemented by additional studies for the development of this Environmental Analysis Record. A more comprehensive data base will be available to determine leasing opportunities.*





## RANGE MANAGEMENT AND VEGETATIVE PRODUCTS

### INTRODUCTION

The majority of the Red Mountain Planning Unit is administered under the provisions of Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act. The entire planning unit is classified ephemeral where grazing is authorized by application only. Six ephemeral sheep allotments and one ephemeral cattle allotment are included. In the poorest grazing seasons, approximately 2,000 animal unit months (AUM's) of forage are used. In good forage years, as many as 20,000 sheep and 1,500 head of cattle have grazed within the planning unit. The forage plants utilized by sheep are nearly all annual forbs. Cattle utilize the annuals and perennial grasses. The Red Mountain Planning Unit adds stability to the California sheep industry as the Planning Unit serves as a spring intermediate range.

Four rare or endangered plants are found within the planning unit: Hermit Cactus (Sclerocactus polyancistrus), Sand Linanthus (Linanthus arenicola), Mojave Spinyherb (Chorizanthe spinosa), and Mojave Dalea (Dalea arborescens). Grazing is no threat to the plants as they are unpalatable.

### DECISIONS

20. Correlate factors of annual plant density, plant volume, soil moisture and air temperature to determine turn-out dates and numbers in issuing licenses and leases on ephemeral range areas.

*Watershed quality, wildlife forage production, recreation quality and long-range livestock forage production capability are adversely affected by poorly managed grazing. A more precise method of determining the potential for ephemeral forage production will allow management personnel to minimize or eliminate conflicts. Site located studies might allow more accurate predictions over time.*

21. Manage to keep herded sheep at least ¼ mile off all paved highways. Herded sheep should not cross paved highways until contact is made with the California Highway Patrol for traffic control.

*These measures will protect sheep herders, motorists and the sheep from injury by auto accident. This will also provide for undisturbed floral display areas along paved roads.*

22. Retain the existing ephemeral range classification and manage according to 43 CFR 4120, until allotment management plans are developed and grazing environmental impact statement has been completed.

*Perennial forage production is low, from 41 to 350 acres per animal unit month for spring grazing. Water sources throughout the year are few and poorly distributed. Potential for ephemeral forage production is high.*

23. Specific actions for feral burro management in Argus and Slate Ranges must be developed in coordination with the overall burro management program. In preparing these recommendations, the unit resource analysis data for the Red Mountain/EI Paso Planning Units should be consulted.

*This Planning Unit contains only small portions of the ranges being adversely impacted by this animal and current efforts to develop a coordinated burro management plan should be completed without regard to Planning Unit boundaries.*



- ★ 24. Set up study plots in the buffer strip along Highway 395 and in the use area in Teagle Wash to monitor trend on wildflower production.

*The Highway 395 strip is protected by management and Teagle Wash is used by livestock and recreationists. This should demonstrate any changes in vegetation in situations of total use through two levels of protection.*

- ★ 25. Protect small sites for Hermit Cactus (Sclerocactus polyancistrus) in the Black Hills. Protect a site for Sand Linanthus (Linanthus arenicola) in Poison Canyon. Protect sites for Mojave Dalea (Dalea arborescens) and Mojave Spinyherb (Chorizanthe spinosa) in the Harper Lake Drainage.

*Hermit Cactus (Sclerocactus polyancistrus) is classified as rare on the California Native Plant Society List. Sand Linanthus (Linanthus arenicola), Mojave Spinyherb (Chorizanthe spinosa) and Mojave Dalea (Dalea arborescens) are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*



Rendering by Alice Lord  
San Bernardino, California



## SOILS AND WATERSHED

### INTRODUCTION

Soils differ in their appearance, composition, productivity, and management requirements in different localities, or even within short distances. These differences are the results of the interaction of these different soil-forming factors: (1) parent material, (2) relief, (3) climate, (4) living organisms, and (5) time. The relative effect of each of these factors varies within each soil. The majority of the soils in the Red Mountain area show little soil development because of lack of moisture. They tend to be alkaline because most of the moisture evaporates and leaves dissolved salts.

Although the erosion susceptibility shows large areas in the moderate to severe categories, the present erosion condition is slight to moderate. The stage of erosion condition is the result of climatic forces acting upon a long period of time. Flooding can occur whenever there are cloud-bursts. The path of flooding is usually well established so damage is kept to a minimum.

### DECISIONS

26. Protect all watershed areas, especially areas which are severely susceptible to erosion by impact, by limiting uses which will disturb vegetation and soil surface.

*These are areas of steep slopes, shallow soils or highly erodable soils. Disturbance of these areas will accelerate erosion, increasing sediment problems. Disruption of surface cover increases run-off which reduces the amount of water going into the ground water system.*

27. Control surface activities which will deteriorate water quality. Prevent dumping of harmful products which might enter the ground water system.

*Ground water is the only source of water for this area and any deterioration of this water supply would have a negative impact. Location of wells to intercept ground water moving toward the playas should reduce total discharge and maintain water quality.*

28. Endorse and assist other agencies which have programs to prevent water quality deterioration.

*The U.S. Geologic Survey and California Department of Water Resources have programs of water quality investigation. The U.S. Geologic Survey is conducting a study of the ground water in Indian Wells Valley to detect any changes or trends in hydrologic conditions that may affect the water supply. This study is being supported by the Indian Wells Valley County Water District, Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation, and China Lake Naval Weapons Center.*

29. Road standards should be established which would minimize erosion hazards. Guidelines should be established on (a) location, and (b) design (grade, side slope and drainage) for both future and existing roads.

*Large parts of this planning unit have steep slopes and shallow soils which are very erodable. General road standards are as follows: road width should be a minimum of 12 feet; grade should be between 2-10 percent (10-14 percent grade could be maintained if surfacing is done to minimize erosion and improve traction); cross slope should be 50 percent or less; drainage should be considered by (a) outslope 4-6 percent to outside only in areas where*



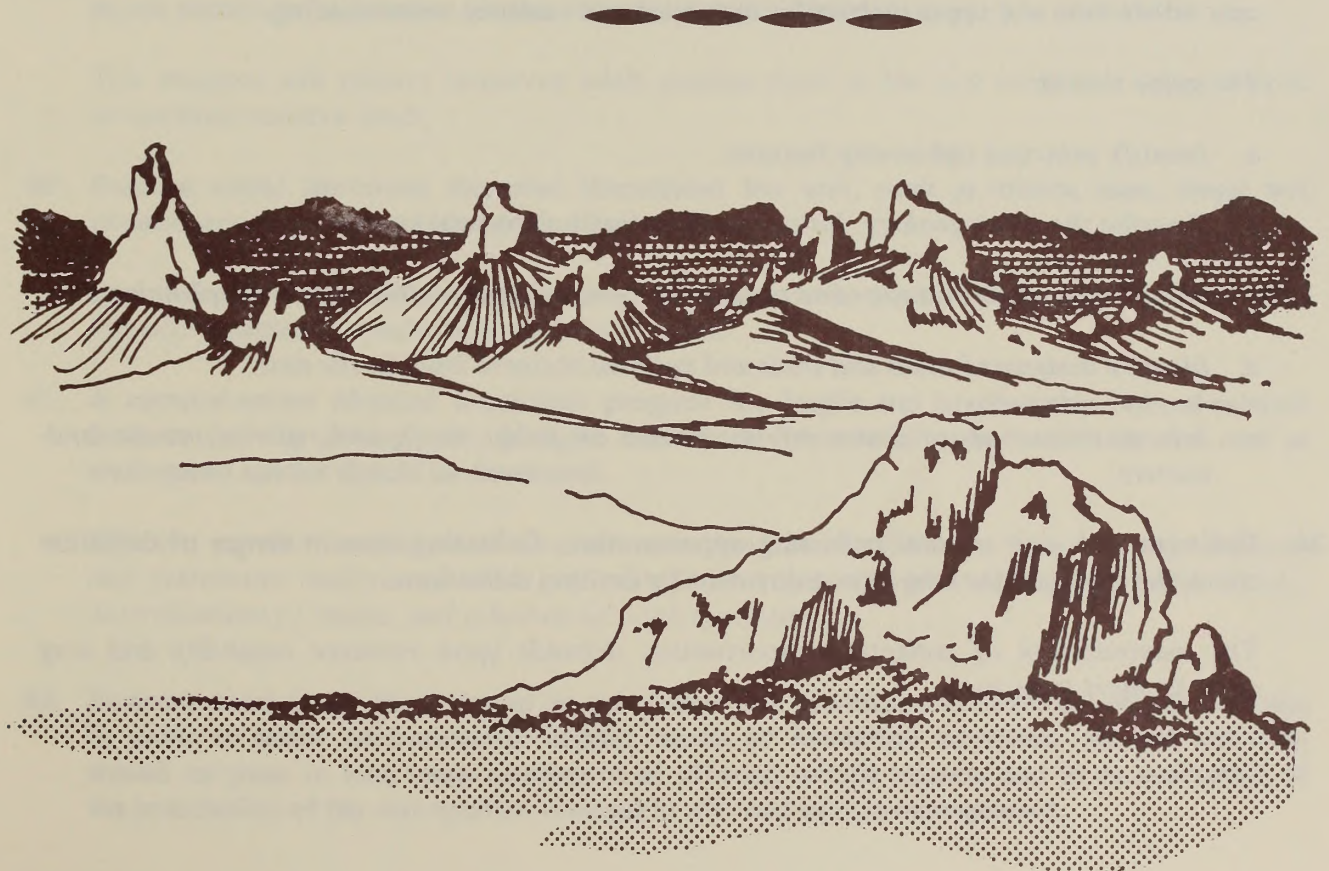
possible (stable soils), (b) inslope sloping into ditch, and (c) crown section-inslope and out-slope to minimize run-off. Also culverts and graded dips should be installed where needed.

30. Encourage miners and mining claimants to consider the environment when extracting mining products and conducting claim assessment work.

*This planning unit has a high percentage of soils severely susceptible to erosion by impact. The scraping and digging from mining, mining exploration and assessment work denudes the soil of vegetative cover and disrupts surface conditions making it more susceptible to erosion. Keep lines of communication open with miners so that suggestions by the BLM are considered in their operations.*

31. Reduce damages by flood and sediments on roads and highways by improving drainage ways and limiting use in areas of severe erosion susceptibility and areas susceptible to wind erosion.

*Some roads in these areas are affected by flood and sediments. Dust causing restricted vision on the highways is also a safety problem in some areas. Water spreading structures would slow the water run-off. Proper culverts should prevent washouts and sediment problems on the roads and highways.*





## RECREATION

### INTRODUCTION

The Red Mountain Planning Unit attracts a wide variety of recreationists whose interests range from competitive motorcycle racing to hiking and other solitude seeking activities. Competitive motorcycle racing is one of the heaviest uses of the area, with most of the events occurring around the Teagle Wash area. The area is frequently used for off-road vehicle pleasure riding. Hunters are attracted to the area for chukar, dove, and quail in season. The more rocky areas attract rock hounds. The area also offers opportunities for sightseeing of annual wildflowers, geologic formations, and possibly vertebrate fossils. The planning unit also has areas of high scenic and primitive value.

### DECISIONS

- ★ 32. Three Field Contact Stations should be established in the following locations:

- a. Junction of Pinnacles Road and Highway 178.
- b. Southeast of Opal Mountain.
- c. Junction of Cuddeback Road and Highway 395.

*The BLM must make an effort to contact the public for purposes of human safety, resource protection, law enforcement, public relations and interpretation.*

33. A general recreation-interpretive guide to the planning unit should be prepared to maximize user satisfaction and opportunities for recreation and resource understanding.

*The guide should:*

- a. *Identify principal sightseeing features.*
- b. *Describe the area's geology, history, archaeology and natural history.*
- c. *Identify locations best suited to outdoor recreation opportunities within the planning unit.*
- d. *Identify designated roads and trails and national resource lands in the unit.*
- e. *Inform visitors about desert safety, hazards on public lands, and right of private land-owners.*

34. Optimize rock and mineral collecting opportunities. Collecting areas in danger of depletion should be managed for long term enjoyment by limiting collections.

*The maximization of collection opportunities depends upon resource capability and long term vs. short term goals.*



- 35. Natural springs and water courses within the unit should be maintained regularly to maximize hunting and other wildlife related recreation opportunities.**

*Desert species must find water at a limited number of springs. Disturbance, pollution, and appropriation of springs for other purposes can have adverse effects upon wildlife and game populations.*

- 36. Birdwatching opportunities should be increased by limiting vehicular use in important areas identified in the Unit Resource Analysis and by establishing primitive areas.**

*Birdwatching is a contemplative activity which is suppressed by intensive uses.*

- 37. Increase photographic and painting opportunities by informing the public of notable scenic and artistic points and features through brochures made available to them. Signs along roads should identify special scenic view points and opportunities.**

*An ever-increasing segment of the public delights in artistic pastimes within the desert. Efforts should be made to serve this group of recreationists.*

- 38. A selective roadside and highway sign program should be developed to identify recreation areas and significant sightseeing-interpretive features.**

*A sign program will enhance public enjoyment of public lands and will assist the BLM in defining its role as custodian of the national resource lands.*

- 39. A mapping and strategic system of marking or signing desert roads and trails at major access points should be undertaken for the management of vehicle use.**

*This program will protect resources while guiding users to the best recreation opportunities on national resource lands.*

- 40. Remove scenic intrusions dispersed throughout the unit, such as mining scars, illegal and unnecessary signs, auto wrecks, junk piles and litter.**

*Removal of intrusions will do much to further the scenic quality of the planning unit. Historically significant intrusions would be excepted.*

- 41. A comprehensive physical protection program for fragile and irreplaceable natural-cultural features such as petroglyphs, geologic formations, historic sites, botanic areas and rare or endangered species should be developed.**

*Efficient protection of desert recreation resources can be effected only by a comprehensive and systematic analysis of needs and plan for protection, with establishment of priorities, determination of means, and schedule of implementation.*

- 42. Environmental Study Plots should be established and monitored in heavy use recreation areas in order to assess environmental impact trends of recreation activities. Special attention should be given to long range assessment of off-road vehicle impacts and to an evaluation of the practicality of the rest-rotation concept in off-road vehicle management.**



*Study plots are essential to the development of trend data which in turn directs management toward the wisest allocation and use of recreation resources.*

- ★ 43. Scenic Overlooks should be established at: (a) The Trona Road in the Spangler Hills, (b) The Trona Road atop the Summit Range, and (c) The Spangler Hills overlooking the Trona Pinnacles.

*Overlooks can be readily signed at minimum time and expense, yet bring enjoyment and awareness of desert values to thousands of recreationists and motorists.*

44. Roadside signs and exhibits should be installed at points of particular interest, such as Trona Pinnacles, Inscription Canyon, and the Fremont site along Highway 395.

*Nationally, driving for pleasure has been at or near the top of the popularity list of outdoor recreation activities for years.*

45. Improve hunting quality in planning unit by: (a) undertaking cooperative studies with California Department of Fish and Game to determine relative quality of upland game habitat as affected by grazing, (b) regulating future grazing so as to insure productivity of habitat for game, and (c) installing fenced small game troughs in association with all existing and future stock troughs. Game troughs should be placed a reasonable distance from stock troughs and provided with cover where natural vegetation has been depleted. Game troughs will be supplied with water piped from stock troughs.

*(a) Cooperative studies will yield useful baseline data in terms of grazing-wildlife competition, (b) regulating future grazing is essential to prevent overuse, and (c) game troughs will allow game animals to secure water without the necessity of total exposure as is now the case at stock troughs, where all cover has been removed.*

- ★ 46. Establish scenic corridor as shown on map. Place future power lines and utilities underground where possible or otherwise keep on west side of Highway 395 between Kramer Junction and Red Mountain.

*These corridors will protect the scenic vistas now enjoyed by the many recreationists and other motorists using these routes.*

47. Regrading and restoration of the government prospect areas near Atolia should be considered after historical significance has been determined.

*These prospects are distinctly visible. Restoration could be accomplished simply with earth moving equipment. Restoration will also eliminate multiple safety hazards in the form of open pits.*

- ★ 48. Fremont Peak Checkerboard Area: Retain existing road and trail designation, extend the designation to include the southeastern portion of the planning unit, and establish specific procedures to monitor recreation vehicle use in this area to assure that such use is in fact staying on existing roads and trails. BLM should continue to work closely with San Bernar-



dino County in an effort to determine if there can be a number of competitive event courses through this area where such courses would be in compliance with County laws and BLM regulations.

*50 percent or more of this area is private land. The national resource land is interspersed in a checkerboard pattern. There are innumerable existing roads and trails throughout the area. It is impractical for BLM to determine which of these roads and trails should be recognized for legal access to private property. It is also impractical to carry out adequate signing or mapping of these roads and trails at this time.*

- ★ 49. **Off-Road Vehicle Open Area Boundary Definition:** The southerly boundary of the Open Area should be clearly identifiable in the field. Consider blading in a simple trail along those portions of the boundary where no road or trail exists (see map) and installation of signs at not less than ¼ mile intervals.

*Field inspection shows that there has been a record of noncompliance with off-road vehicle restrictions. This is partly due to the lack of adequate markings and inability of users to determine where the Open Area boundary really is.*

- ★ 50. **Establish a cross country equestrian trail along the general alignment shown on map from the vicinity of Steam Well through Golden Valley.** Trail can be located a reasonable distance from any existing or designated road or trail and should be appropriately marked for equestrian use only.

*Excellent trail rides could be made along the route recommended, a one-day ride of approximately 20 miles through scenic and easy riding terrain, with opportunities for pick-up of horses at either end. No water is present, but horses could make the one-day ride during cool season.*

- ★ 51. **Establish the Lava Mountains Primitive Area.** Public use, consistent with maintenance of the primitive environment, is encouraged. Travel is restricted to non-mechanized forms of locomotion, to the extent allowable by law and regulation. Construction will not be allowed except in connection with non-discretionary activities such as locatable mineral exploration and development. Grazing of domestic livestock may be permitted under such conditions and restrictions as deemed necessary to preserve primitive values.

*The central area of the Lava Mountains is roadless and near pristine. An increasing demand for primitive areas near population centers is predicted. Construction and development within this area would essentially eliminate the primitive values identified.*

- ★ 52. **Manage the Golden Valley area to protect significant natural, scenic and cultural values.**

*This area has substantial natural, scenic and cultural values which warrant special management consideration. The designated roads will allow circulation through the area.*



**53. Pinnacles Area:**

- ★ a. Designate the Pinnacles National Natural Landmark as an Outstanding Natural Area which includes all of the area currently withdrawn from mineral entry.

*The pinnacles are unique in the nation and perhaps worldwide. As such, they are of scientific, educational and recreational value.*

- ★ b. Establish a Scenic Buffer Zone on the mapped areas surrounding the Outstanding Natural Area. Designate access roads through the buffer zone. Develop camping and picnicking facilities in the buffer zone outside the Outstanding Natural Area. Mineral development and utility construction should be managed in consistence with the buffer zone purpose.

*The buffer zone will protect the scenic qualities of the pinnacles area.*

- c. Protect raptor eyries from disturbance during the breeding and nesting season (February 1 - July 1).

*Prairie falcons, a rare raptor species, are known to nest on the tops of some of the pinnacles.*

- d. Discontinue tufa sales in the Scenic Buffer Zone.

*Collection of tufa has significantly degraded the scenery as well as sightseeing and scientific significance of the tufa terraces and pinnacles in the Spangler Hills and Teagle Wash areas. Economic gains by those involved in the tufa trade are small when compared with irretrievable public loss of scenic and interpretive resources.*

★ 54.

Establish the Argus Mountains Primitive Area. Public use, consistent with maintenance of the primitive environment, is encouraged. Travel is restricted to non-mechanized forms of locomotion, to the extent allowable by law and regulation. Construction will not be allowed

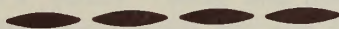
Prepare and submit a request to the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal from mining and other forms of entry to protect and preserve natural values and public land status. Prepare a minerals report using unit resource analysis data to include with the request to the Secretary, with the recommendation that after acceptance, further investigation of mineral potential be conducted prior to final action on the withdrawal. This will provide for immediate protection on the known surface resources and primitive values but will withhold final judgment on permanent withdrawal until the "not fully known" mineral potential is further studied. In the interim, existing valid mineral rights are not affected.

*The central area of the Argus Mountains is roadless, near pristine, and adjacent to China Lake Naval Weapons Center. An increasing demand for primitive areas near population centers is predicted. Construction and development within this area would essentially eliminate the primitive values identified.*



55. Off-road vehicle use will be managed in accordance with the off-road vehicle designations and definitions shown on the Management Framework Plan map.

*The original designations established in 1973 by the Interim Critical Management Plan for Recreational Vehicles were based upon very limited knowledge of resource data. During the planning process for this Planning Unit, substantially more detailed data was collected, additional public input was received and more careful analysis was given to the specific alternatives and effects of off-road vehicle use. As a result of these studies, decisions were made to change some of the original Interim Critical Management Plan designations.*





## CULTURAL RESOURCES

### INTRODUCTION

Archaeological evidence indicates that man probably was in the area we now call the Red Mountain Planning Unit as long ago as 10,000 B.C. In historical times, the northern portion of the planning unit was occupied by Koso Indians while the southern portion was part of territories held by Chemehuevi and Vanyume Indians. Evidence of aboriginal occupation of the planning unit is found around Harper, Cuddeback, and Searles Dry Lakes; in petroglyphs, especially around the Steam Wells and Black Canyon areas; in rock shelters in the Lava Mountains; in village sites; and in numerous milling sites.

The archaeological evidence which can be found in the planning unit offers the opportunity to discover how aboriginal man lived and adapted to the environment in this area.

In the 1800's, a few early American expeditions may have passed through the Red Mountain Planning Unit. However, no remains from these expeditions have been found in the area. The most intensive occupation and activity within the area occurred during the mining period. In the last half of the nineteenth century, Red Mountain and the Spangler Hills were centers of gold mining activities, and borax was mined at Searles Lake. In the early 1900's, the Red Mountain area was active with discovery of tungsten and silver. Today, a railroad bed can be found from Kramer Junction to Johannesburg. This was the Randsburg Railroad built in 1897. The Death Valley borax road which was used by the famous Twenty Mule Teams can still be followed across the Planning Unit.

### DECISIONS

56. Organize an orderly program for inventory, evaluation, recording, protection, salvage and mitigation of archaeological resources. The following specific needs have been identified:
- a. Specific attention should be given to cultural resources in lands reports, technical reports and land use permit processing.
  - b. A complete filing system.
  - c. A systematic inventory and evaluation program, including field test sampling.
  - d. A relative archaeological rating system.
  - e. A program for nomination of suitable sites to the National Register of Historic Places.
  - f. A comprehensive protection and monitoring system.
  - g. A salvage and/or mitigation program.

*Cultural resources, as a specific management activity, is a recent concept. Procedures have not been fully developed to maximize the public values and comply with the existing laws and regulations on these resources.*



57. Support and assist a local and Bureauwide public education program regarding cultural resources.

*The most effective long-term means to protect cultural resources, to reduce vandalism, and to benefit from the past is through public education.*

58. Initiate an oral history program. "Old Timers" should be interviewed by Bureau personnel and their recollections of the past recorded on tape.

*The human interest aspect of the Bureau's Interpretive program will benefit from the accounts of older residents of this area. Their personal experiences will also shed new light on places and events of historic significance.*

59. Encourage and support intensive and systematic archaeological research including survey, excavation and analysis by reputable institutions making use of Antiquities Act Permits as a management tool. Excavation will be done only when the need is clearly stated and in compliance with federal procedures.

*Archaeological work in the area suffers from inadequate funding and lack of long-term planning of scientific objectives and methods. Most of the work that has been conducted has been ill-coordinated and little of what has been done has resulted in usable information either for scientific or interpretive purposes. Until this is amended, the full scientific and public value of the area's cultural resources will not be realized. Full utilization of Antiquities Act Permits provides the Bureau with one of the most effective means for properly managing archaeological and historical work on national resource lands.*

60. Identify the following properties as potential candidates for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

- a. Squaw Springs (archaeological district).
- b. Prisco Rockshelters (archaeological district).
- c. Lake Beds (archaeological site).
- d. Cuddeback Lake (archeological district).
- e. RM-16 (Mary Site) (archaeological site).
- f. RM-17 (archaeological site).
- g. McDonald Well (archaeological site).
- h. McDonald Ruins (historical site).
- i. Kramer-Randsburg Railroad (historical district).
- j. Summit Diggings (historical district).

*These are known archaeological and historical sites which should be evaluated and nominated if found qualified.*



61. Initiate an archaeological program of systematic field test sampling and a viable archaeological salvage program where mitigation measures are not feasible. Conduct systematic sampling and/or necessary salvage at the following archaeological sites:

- a. "Y" Site (RM-14).
- b. Mary Site (RM-16).
- c. Game Refuge Site (RM-19).
- d. Prisco Rockshelters (RM-26 and RM-27).
- e. McDonald Well Site (SBr-550).
- f. Lake Beds Site (RM-54).
- g. Alan's Rocks (RM-58).

*Systematic field test sampling would provide information to assess more effectively the significance of particular archaeological sites, to recover data from disturbed sites, and to interpret the site for the public if necessary. Salvage would avoid the unnecessary loss of cultural resources and would comply with Historical and Archaeological Data Preservation Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-291; 88 Stat. 174).*

★ 62. Establish a Black Canyon-Opal Mountain Outstanding Natural Area to best manage, protect and interpret an area of high scenic, natural and cultural values. Accomplish by the following:

- a. Develop an interim cooperative management agreement with private land owners to ensure protection of the resources.
- b. Initiate a study to define specific boundaries for Outstanding Natural Area designation and acquire private lands within the boundary.
- c. Designate roads as shown on the map to provide vehicular access through the area.
- d. Develop a management-protection plan for the raptor eyries in Black Canyon.
- e. Nominate the Black Canyon Archaeological District to the National Register of Historic Places.
- f. Withdraw specific sites (e.g., petroglyph sites) within the Outstanding Natural Area, under authority of Executive Order 10355, for protection of the recreation and public values, and segregate from mining and all other forms of entry.
- g. Develop a specific plan for the protection and interpretation of the Outstanding Natural Area to include, but not be limited to, petroglyphs, the historic trails, etc.



- h. Restore the vandalized Black Canyon petroglyphs by removal of spray paint, repatination of disturbed rock surface, and eliminate graffiti. Restore results of "treasure hunters" to natural conditions as close as possible.
- i. Explore the possibility of the need for placing gallinaceous guzzlers.

*The Black Canyon-Opal Mountain area is a rugged and impressive desert landscape, combining high resource values and excellent recreational opportunities. It has excellent concentrations of petroglyphs and at the same time is intensively used by rock collectors, hunters, 4-wheel vehicle enthusiasts, and other recreationists. A comprehensive management effort, based upon identification and preservation of natural and cultural values, will best accomodate uses compatible with this area's theme.*

★ 63. Protect the Steam Well petroglyphs by the following:

- a. Nominate the Steam Well petroglyph sites to the National Register of Historic Places.
- b. Withdraw the Steam Well petroglyph sites (less than 10 acres) for protection of recreation and public values, as authorized by E.O. 10355.
- c. Fence the Steam Well petroglyphs to provide protection and to ensure preservation.
- d. Restore the damaged Steam Well petroglyphs.

*The BLM is responsible for protecting, by the most effective means available under its authority, all sites under its jurisdiction identified as having archaeological values. This decision will afford the Steam Well petroglyph site the necessary protection.*

★ 64. Coordinate nomination of the Twenty Mule Team Borax Road to the National Register of Historic Places with other appropriate government offices and agencies including the National Park Service (Death Valley National Monument) and the California State Department of Parks and Recreation.

*The Twenty Mule Team Borax Road would qualify for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. However, the road crosses a variety of land ownerships, including national resource lands and Death Valley National Monument. Therefore, the BLM needs to coordinate nomination of the entire road with the National Park Service and follow the nomination procedures outlined by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.*





## WILDLIFE

### INTRODUCTION

The Red Mountain Planning Unit includes 14 different wildlife habitats which support over 300 animal species. Within the wildlife habitats or vegetative subtypes, there are possibly 2 species of amphibians, 34 of reptiles, 52 of mammals, and 233 of birds. Of the 233 species of birds, 75 are waterfowl and shorebirds that use the area on occasion during migration or for wintering. The remaining 158 species are composed of resident, summer resident, migratory, wintering, and visiting or vagrant birds. The most important species are the residents and summer residents who use the habitats on a year-round basis or for breeding.

In addition, the Red Mountain Planning Unit lies approximately at the boundary of the Great Basin and Mojave Desert. Many species and subspecies reach the northern or southern edges of their geographic ranges in this area. Some examples are the desert tortoise and the Mojave ground squirrel.

The Red Mountain unit also contains a desert marsh at Harper Lake, which supports numerous species of birds such as white-tailed kites, yellow-headed blackbirds, canvasback and cinnamon teal ducks and many others. The marsh alone supports over 75 species of birds.

There are elements of Central Valley and Antelope Valley vegetation in the broad expanse of salt-bush to the west and south of Fremont Peak. This vegetation may support some Central Valley species of wildlife.

### DECISIONS

65. Determine accurately the distribution of the desert tortoise on lands north of the Lava Mountains. Establish trend study plots in the area (one per habitat type).

*The desert tortoise is the California State Reptile and a fully protected species. Habitat is deteriorating rapidly in some areas and desert tortoise populations are declining. Trend studies need to be initiated and maintained on a long term basis to monitor the condition.*

66. Maintain portions of each of the 14 or more habitats in the Red Mountain Planning Unit.

*Each wildlife habitat has special values, unique, unusual, and often significant assemblages of species. Some habitats are widespread throughout the desert; others have extremely limited distribution. Some are found only within the Red Mountain Unit. Some habitats may be found elsewhere in the desert, but not on national resource lands.*

*Some habitats have no known special values, however, further studies may reveal important and significant data. The BLM has directives for management of wildlife habitats including: (a) maintaining an optimum diversity of animal species in sufficient numbers to meet public demand and consistent with ecosystem concepts; and (b) the responsibility for research studies and inventories which will enable the making of sound management decisions regarding maintenance, expansion, and improvement of wildlife habitats.*



67. In cooperation with California Department of Fish and Game, select sites and construct gallinaceous guzzlers in the following areas: Summit Range, Lava Mountains, Red Mountain, Almond Mountain, Slate Range, Gravel Hills, Fremont Peak area and Black Hills.

*These areas have all the necessary habitat requirements for such game birds as chukar, Gambel's quail and mourning dove, except water. Water is the limiting factor. Additional water sources would expand habitat and allow increase in bird populations. The increase in game birds would, in turn, increase hunting opportunity in regions where habitat has gradually been declining.*

- ★ 68. Establish a Fremont Research Natural Area to protect the flora and fauna of the Mojave saltbush community. Significant wildlife species include San Joaquin pocket mouse, Mojave ground squirrel, desert tortoise, leopard lizard, etc. Accomplish by the following:

- a. Designate the defined area as a Research Natural Area.
- b. Withdraw the Research Natural Area for protection of recreation and public values and segregate it from all forms of entry.
- c. Segregate the lands from grazing. The majority of the national resource lands are under Section 3 Permits.
- d. Acquire the private lands within the Research Natural Area.

*To date, there are no known Research Natural Areas or protected habitats with this type of wildlife habitat and combination of floral and faunal values. Lands west and south of Fremont Peak have a Mojave saltbush community which is valuable in composition of flora and fauna depending on location. This community, particularly the area outlined for the Research Natural Area, has a diverse saltbush community with elements of shadscale and creosote. The proposed Research Natural Area appears to contain better portions of the habitat than elsewhere in adjacent units and also contains populations of such significant species as Mojave ground squirrel, San Joaquin pocket mouse, desert tortoise, and chisel-toothed kangaroo rat. The presence of the San Joaquin pocket mouse is of special note; the species was just discovered here and its presence is unusual.*

69. Investigate the feasibility of developing a Habitat Management Plan in the Harper Lake marsh area. This will include water ownership and availability studies as well as land ownership patterns and cooperative management possibilities. If found to be feasible, develop as a wildlife management area.

*Harper Lake and adjacent lands contain many areas of fine marsh and wetland habitat for about 70 species of waterfowl and over 50 species of raptors, songbirds and small game animals. Preservation in public ownership and expansion of the marshland would provide valuable habitat for these species, and would enhance opportunities for recreational hunting and birdwatching.*

70. Bureau of Land Management policy directives for wildlife activities state in part: "...Increasing public interest in non-game wildlife species and species threatened with extinction will shift management efforts... Maintain maximum diversity of wildlife species in sufficient numbers to

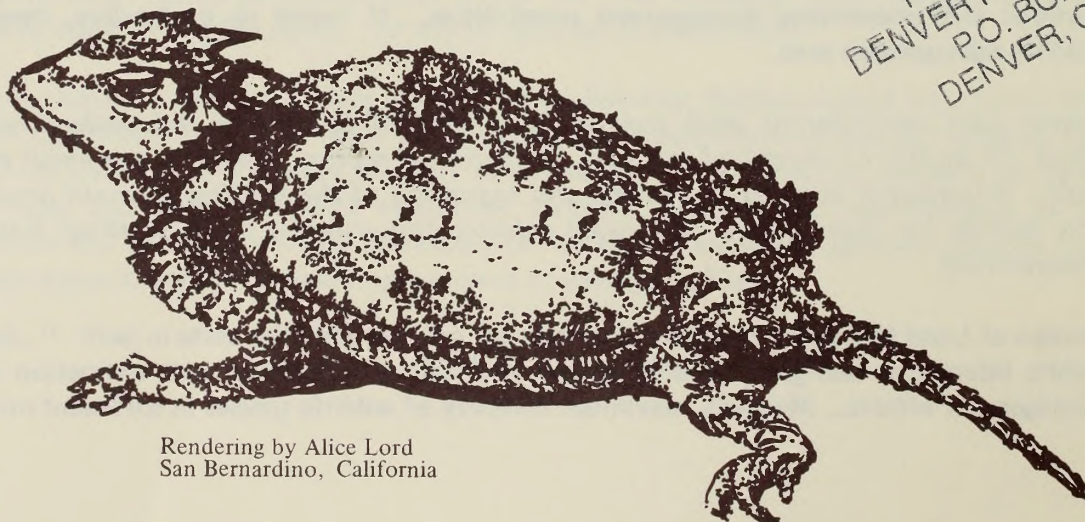


meet public demands through habitat management... Sponsor or conduct research, studies and inventories..."

To assist in carrying out the above policies, the following additional wildlife studies are needed:

- a. Survey mountain canyons, caves and mine shaft areas to determine the variety, location and population of bat species.
- b. Survey and map all water sources. Determine existing and potential water production, uses, identify conflicts and prepare a water development plan.
- c. Additional surveys of various habitats are needed to determine distribution, density, abundance and management actions for the following species and particular locations:

Species	Location
Desert Iguana.....	Dunes North of Harper Lake
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard.....	Dunes North of Harper Lake
Desert Tortoise.....	General Area
San Joaquin Pocket Mouse.....	General Area
Prairie Falcon.....	General Area
Mojave Ground Squirrel.....	General Area
Various Significant Reptiles.....	Rand, Spangler Hills
Fairy Shrimp.....	Cuddeback Lake-Searles Lake
Other Invertebrates.....	Cuddeback Lake-Searles Lake



Rendering by Alice Lord  
San Bernardino, California

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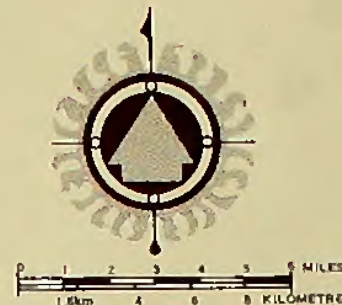
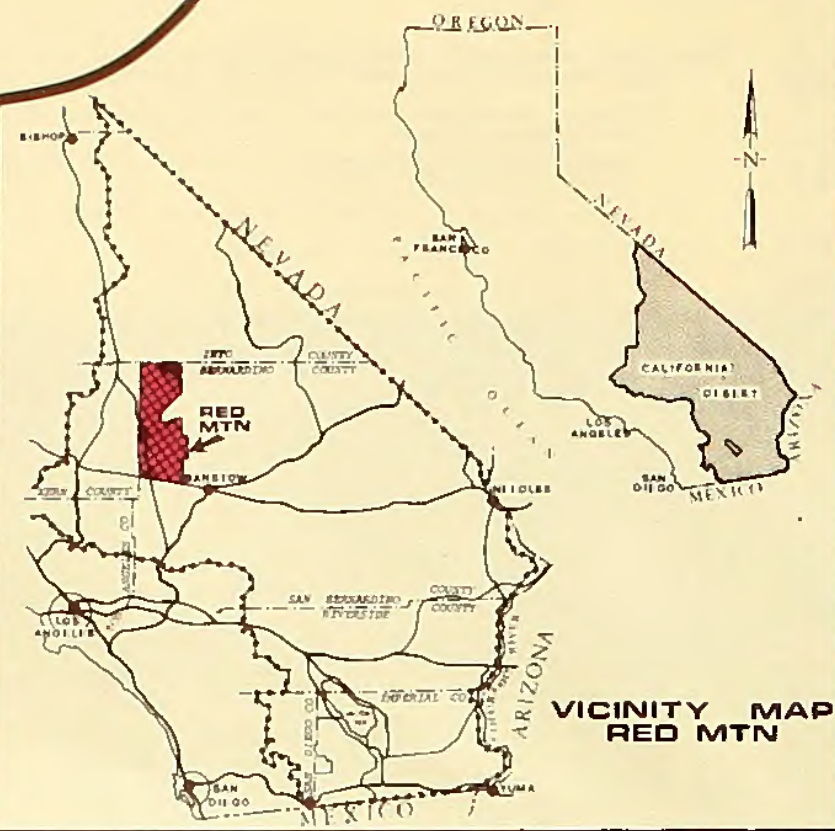
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# MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN RED MOUNTAIN

PLANNING UNIT  
RIVERSIDE DISTRICT



- PLANNING UNIT BOUNDARY
- NATIONAL RESOURCE LANDS
- PRIVATE LANDS
- INTERSTATE FREEWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- COUNTY HIGHWAY

## LEGEND

NUMBERS SHOWN ON MAP & LEGEND ARE KEYED TO  
★ NARRATIVE ON BACK PAGE

### DECISIONS:

- OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA
- NATURAL RESEARCH AREA
- SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA
- PRIMITIVE AREA
- SCENIC CORRIDOR (46)
- SCENIC BUFFER (53)
- EQUESTRIAN TRAIL
- FIELD CONTACT STATION (32)
- SCENIC OVERLOOK (43)
- MAJOR UTILITY CORRIDOR (2)
- AIRPORT PROTECTION
- ACQUIRE LANDS (6)
- COMMUNICATION SITE (1)
- RARE PLANT PROTECTION (25)
- STUDY PLOT (24)
- POTENTIAL SAND & GRAVEL (16)

### VEHICLE ACTIVITY:

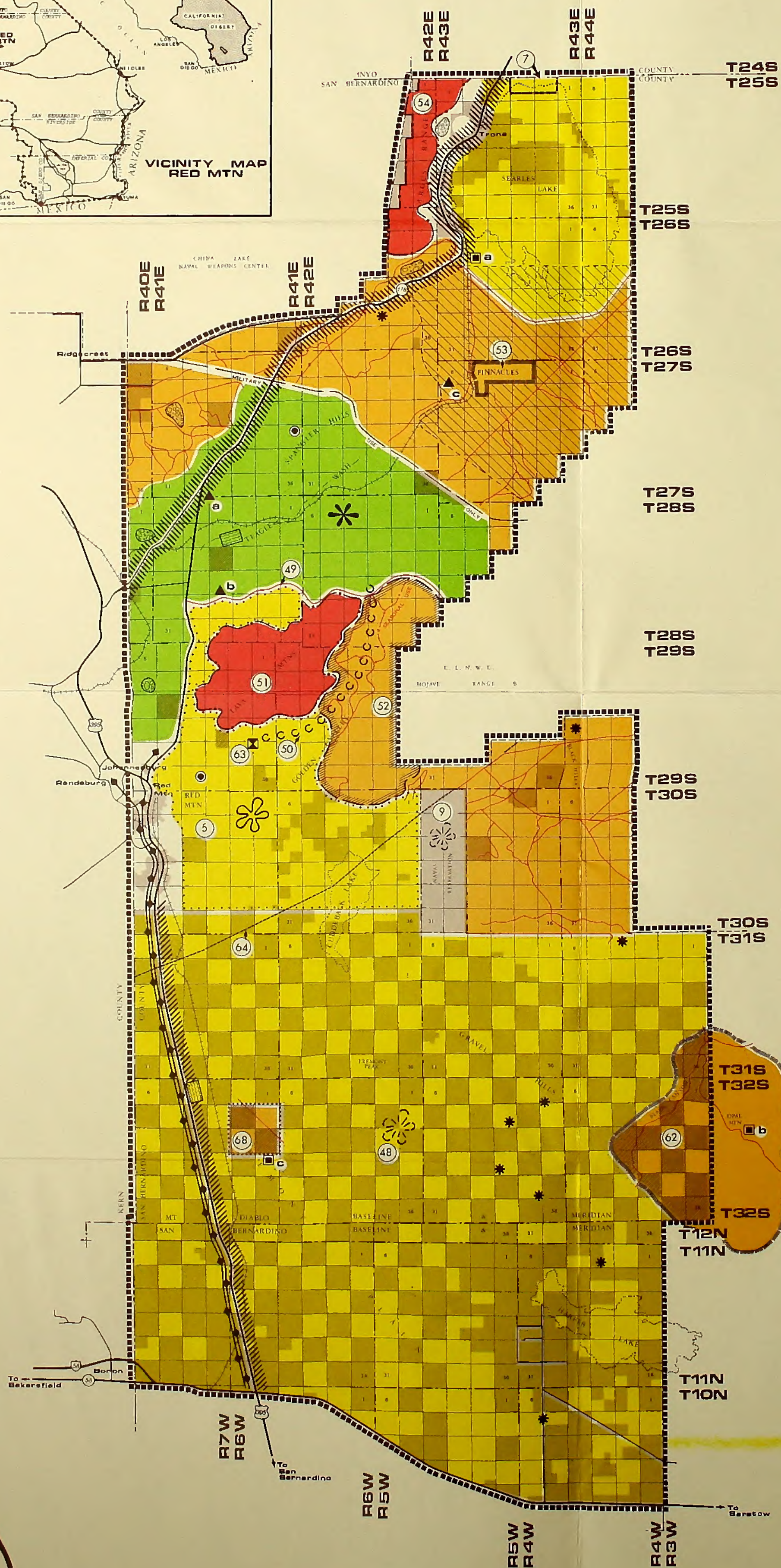
- CLOSED TO VEHICLE USE
- OPEN AREA

### RESTRICTED:

- DESIGNATED ROADS & TRAILS
- EXISTING ROADS & TRAILS

### COMPETITIVE EVENTS:

- COMPETITION BOUNDARY
- B.L.M. SYSTEM
- SPONSOR OPTION





ADOPTION DATE: MAY 14, 1976

# MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN RED MOUNTAIN PLANNING UNIT

★ REFERS TO NUMBERS ON FRONT PAGE MAP AND LEGEND

## INTRODUCTION

These decisions set the policy and management direction for the national resource lands in the Red Mountain Planning Unit.

Some of these decisions are effective immediately and will be reflected in a variety of ways. For example, the "designations" of the various Natural Areas shown on the map has the immediate effect of specifying the types of public use, resource conditions, outdoor recreation occupancy and use, and resource development which will be authorized or permitted by the Bureau of Land Management. Bureau action on requests for use of the land within these areas will immediately reflect the purposes and objectives of these designations as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Certain other decisions will require additional study and planning. For example, the decisions related to range management will require preparation of detailed Allotment Management Plan before implementation can take place.

Finally, there are decisions in this report which will require additional manpower to accomplish. For example, special investigations are needed throughout the planning unit to locate significant plant and wildlife species. Implementation of these decisions will depend upon funding provided through the budget process.

## RANGE MANAGEMENT AND VEGETATIVE PRODUCTS

20. Correlate factors of annual plant density, plant volume, soil moisture and air temperature to determine turn-out dates and numbers in issuing licenses and leases on ephemeral range areas.
21. Manage to keep harded sheep at least 1/4 mile off all paved highways. Harded sheep should not cross paved highways until contact is made with the California Highway Patrol for traffic control.
22. Retain the existing ephemeral range classification and manage according to 43 CFR 4120, until allotment management plans are developed and grazing environmental impact statement has been completed.
23. Specific actions for local burro management in Argus and Staro Ranges must be developed in coordination with the overall burro management program. In preparing these recommendations, the unit resource analysis data for the Red Mountain/El Paso Planning Units should be consulted.
- ★ 24. Set up study plots in the buffer strip along Highway 395 and in the use area in Teagle Wash to monitor trend on wildflower production.

- ★ 25. Protect small sites for Hemlock (Sedocarpus polyandrus) in the Black Hills. Protect a site for Sand Linanthus (Linanthus arcticus) in Poison Canyon. Protect sites for Mojave Dales (Dalea arborescens) and Mojave Spinycholla (Cholla spines) in the Harper Lake Drainage.

## SOILS AND WATERSHED

26. Protect all watershed areas, especially areas which are severely susceptible to erosion by impact, by limiting uses which will disturb vegetation and soil surface.
27. Control surface activities which will deteriorate water quality. Prevent dumping of harmful products which might enter the ground water system.
28. Encourage and assist other agencies which have programs to prevent water quality deterioration.
29. Road standards should be established which would minimize erosion hazards. Guidelines should be established on (a) location, and (b) design (grade, side slope and drainage) for both future and existing roads.
30. Encourage miners and mining claimants to consider the environment when extracting mining products and conducting claim assessment work.
31. Reduce damages by flood and sediment on roads and highways by improving drainage ways and limiting use in areas of severe erosion susceptibility and areas susceptible to wind erosion.

## RECREATION

- ★ 32. Three Field Contact Stations should be established in the following locations:
  - a. Junction of Pinnacles Road and Highway 178.
  - b. Southeast of Opal Mountain.
  - c. Junction of Cuddeback Road and Highway 395.
33. A general recreation-interpretive guide to the planning unit should be prepared to maximize user satisfaction and opportunities for recreation and resource understanding.
34. Optimize rock and mineral collecting opportunities. Collecting areas in danger of depletion should be managed for long term enjoyment by limiting collections.
35. Natural springs and water courses within the unit should be maintained regularly to maximize hunting and other wildlife related recreation opportunities.
36. Birdwatching opportunities should be increased by limiting vehicular use in important areas identified in the Unit Resource Analysis and by establishing primitive areas.
37. Increase photographic and painting opportunities by informing the public of notable scenic and artistic points and features through brochures made available to them. Signs along roads should identify special scenic view points and opportunities.
38. A selective roadside and highway sign program should be developed to identify recreation areas and significant sightseeing/interpretive features.
39. A mapping and strategic system of marking or lighting desert roads and trails at major access points should be undertaken for the management of vehicle use.
40. Remove scenic intrusions dispersed throughout the unit, such as mining scars, illegal and unnecessary signs, auto wrecks, junk piles and litter.
41. A comprehensive physical protection program for fragile and irreplaceable natural-cultural features such as petroglyphs, geologic formations, historic sites, botanic areas and rare or endangered species should be developed.
- ★ 43. Scenic Overlooks should be established at: (a) The Trona Road in the Spangler Hills, (b) The Trona Road atop the Summit Range, and (c) The Spangler Hills overlooking the Trona Pinnacles.
44. Roadside signs and exhibits should be installed at points of particular interest, such as Trona Pinnacles, Inscription Canyon, and the Fremont site along Highway 395.
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- ★ 50. Establish a cross country equestrian trail along the general alignment shown on map from the vicinity of Steam Well through Golden Valley. Trail can be located a reasonable distance from any existing or designated road or trail and should be appropriately marked for equestrian use only.
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- ★ 52. Manage the Golden Valley area to protect significant natural, scenic and cultural values.
53. Pinnacles Area:
  - ★ a. Designate the Pinnacles National Natural Landmark as an Outstanding Natural Area which includes all of the area currently withdrawn from mineral entry.
  - ★ b. Establish a Scenic Buffer Zone on the mapped areas surrounding the Outstanding Natural Area. Designate access roads through the buffer zone. Develop camping and picnicking facilities in the buffer zone outside the Outstanding Natural Area. Mineral development and other construction should be managed in accordance with the buffer zone purpose.
  - c. Protect raptor avities from disturbance during the breeding and nesting season (February - July 1).
  - d. Discontinue tula sales in the Scenic Buffer Zone.

- ★ 54. Establish the Argus Mountain Primitive Area. Public use, consistent with maintenance of the primitive environment, is encouraged. Travel is restricted to non-mechanized forms of locomotion, to the extent allowable by law and regulation. Construction will not be allowed.

Prepare and submit a request to the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal from mining and other forms of entry to protect and preserve natural values and public land status. Prepare a mineral report using unit resource analysis data to include with the request to the Secretary, with the recommendation that site acceptance, further investigation of mineral potential be conducted prior to final action on the withdrawal. This will provide for immediate protection on the known surface resources and primitive values but will withhold final judgment on permanent withdrawal until the "not fully known" mineral potential is further studied. In the interim, existing valid mineral rights are not affected.

55. Off-road vehicle use will be managed in accordance with the off-road vehicle designations and definitions shown on the Management Framework Plan map.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

56. Organize an orderly program for inventory, evaluation, recording, protection, salvage and mitigation of archaeological resources. The following specific needs have been identified:
  - a. Specific attention should be given to cultural resources in land reports, technical reports and land use permit processing.
  - b. A complete listing system.
  - c. A systematic inventory and evaluation program, including field test sampling.
  - d. A relative archaeological rating system.
- a. A program for nomination of suitable sites to the National Register of Historic Places.
1. A comprehensive protection and monitoring system.
- a. A salvage and/or mitigation program.
57. Support and assist a local and Bureauwide public education program regarding cultural resources.
58. Initiate an oral history program. "Old Timers" should be interviewed by Bureau personnel and their recollections of the past recorded on tape.
59. Encourage and support intensive and systematic archaeological research including survey, excavation and analysis by reputable institutions making use of Antiquities Act Permits as a management tool. Excavation will be done only when the need is clearly stated and in compliance with Federal procedures.
60. Identify the following properties as potential candidates for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:
  - a. Squaw Springs (archaeological district).
  - b. Price Rockshelters (archaeological district).
  - c. Lake Beds (archaeological site).
  - d. Cuddeback Lake (archaeological district).
  - e. RM-16 (Mary Site) (archaeological site).
  - f. RM-17 (archaeological site).
  - g. McDonald Wall (archaeological site).
  - h. McDonald Ruins (historical site).
  - i. Kramer-Randburg Railroad (historical district).
  - j. Summit Diggings (historical district).
61. Initiate an archaeological program of systematic field test sampling and a viable archaeological salvage program where mitigation measures are not feasible. Conduct systematic sampling and/or necessary salvage at the following archaeological sites:
  - a. "Y" Site (RM-14).
  - b. Mary Site (RM-16).
  - c. Game Refuge Site (RM-19).
  - d. Price Rockshelters (RM-26 and RM-27).
  - e. McDonald Wall Site (SR-550).
  - f. Lake Beds Site (RM-54).
  - g. Alan's Rocks (RM-58).

- ★ 62. Establish a Black Canyon/Opal Mountain Outstanding Natural Area to best manage, protect and interpret an area of high scenic, natural and cultural values. Accomplish by the following:
  - a. Develop an interim cooperative management agreement with private land owners to ensure protection of the resources.
  - b. Initiate a study to define specific boundaries for Outstanding Natural Area designation and acquire private lands within the boundary.
  - c. Designate roads as shown on the map to provide vehicular access through the area.
  - d. Develop a management-protection plan for the raptor avities in Black Canyon.
  - e. Nominate the Black Canyon Archaeological District to the National Register of Historic Places.
  - f. Withdraw specific sites (e.g., petroglyph sites) within the Outstanding Natural Area, under authority of Executive Order 10355, for protection of the recreation and public values, and segregate from mining and all other forms of entry.
  - g. Develop a specific plan for the protection and interpretation of the Outstanding Natural Area to include, but not be limited to, petroglyphs, the historic trail, etc.
  - h. Restore the vandalized Black Canyon petroglyphs by removal of spray paint, repainting of disturbed rock surface, and eliminate graffiti. Restore results of "treasure hunting" to natural conditions as close as possible.
  - i. Explore the possibility of the need for placing gallinaceous guzzlers.
- ★ 63. Protect the Steam Well petroglyphs by the following:
  - a. Nominate the Steam Well petroglyph sites to the National Register of Historic Places.
  - b. Withdraw the Steam Well petroglyph sites (less than 10 acres) for protection of recreation and public values, as authorized by E.O. 10355.
  - c. Fence the Steam Well petroglyphs to provide protection and to ensure preservation.
  - d. Restore the damaged Steam Well petroglyphs.

- ★ 64. Coordinate nomination of the Twenty Mule Team Box Road to the National Register of Historic Places with other appropriate government offices and agencies including the National Park Service (Death Valley National Monument) and the California State Department of Parks and Recreation.

## WILDLIFE

65. Determine accurately the distribution of the desert tortoise on lands north of the Lava Mountains. Establish trend study plots in the area (one per habitat type).
66. Maintain portions of each of the 14 or more habitats in the Red Mountain Planning Unit.
67. In cooperation with California Department of Fish and Game, select sites and construct gallinaceous guzzlers in the following areas: Summit Range, Lava Mountain, Red Mountain, Almond Mountain, State Range, Gravel Hills, Fremont Peak area and Black Hills.
- ★ 68. Establish a Fremont Research Natural Area to protect the flora and fauna of the Mojave salt-bush community. Significant wildlife species include San Joaquin pocket mouse, Mojave ground squirrel, desert tortoise, leopard lizard, etc. Accomplish by the following:
  - a. Designate the defined area as a Research Natural Area.
  - b. Withdraw the Research Natural Area for protection of recreation and public values and segregate it from all forms of entry.
  - c. Segregate the lands from grazing. The majority of the national resource lands are under Section 3 Permits.
  - d. Acquire the private lands within the Research Natural Area.
69. Investigate the feasibility of developing a Habitat Management Plan in the Harper Lake marsh area. This will include water ownership and availability studies as well as land ownership pattern and cooperative management possibilities. If found to be feasible, develop as a wildlife management area.
70. Bureau of Land Management policy directives for wildlife activities state in part: "...Increasing public interest in non-game wildlife species and species threatened with extinction will shift management efforts... Maintain maximum diversity of wildlife species in sufficient numbers to meet public demands through habitat management... Sponsor or conduct research, studies and inventories..."

To assist in carrying out the above policies, the following additional wildlife studies are needed:

- a. Survey mountain canyons, caves and mesa shaft areas to determine the variety, location and population of bat species.
- b. Survey and map all water sources. Determine existing and potential water production, uses, identify conflicts and prepare a water development plan.
- c. Additional surveys of various habitats are needed to determine distribution, density, abundance and management actions for the following species and particular locations:

Species	Location
Desert Iguana	Dunes North of Harper Lake
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard	Dunes North of Harper Lake
Desert Tortoise	General Area
San Joaquin Pocket Mouse	General Area
Prairie Falcon	General Area
Mojave Ground Squirrel	General Area
Various Significant Reptiles	Rand, Spangler Hills
Fairy Shrimp	Cuddeback Lake-Seasles Lake
Other Invertebrates	Cuddeback Lake-Seasles Lake

THOSE INTERESTED IN RATIONALE FOR THE ABOVE ACTIONS MAY SUBMIT A REQUEST IN WRITING FOR A COPY OF THE "RED MOUNTAIN MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN" REPORT MAY 14, 1976

MAIL TO: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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